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### *Desmond FitzGerald*

Nothing in the recent burst of publicity can take away from the fact that over the years the Central Intelligence Agency has rendered arduous services to the Nation, often brilliantly and almost always without public recognition or acclaim. And nothing can take away from the fact that it has been managed, by and large, by exceptionally able and dedicated men, with a rare gift for deriving satisfaction from a career in anonymity. Desmond FitzGerald, who held perhaps the most sensitive and pressure-filled high office in the agency, was one of these.

Only a very few people within the Government could know what power and influence he wielded, or with what skill and tact and integrity. Those who knew would call him, as Walt W. Rostow did, "one of a handful of Americans who—year in and year out—looked after the Nation's vital interests with professionalism, sensibility and simple patriotism." He abandoned a successful law career in 1951, at the outbreak of the Korean War and out of a deep concern for the way of the world, to serve that branch of the Government which offers the least outward and tangible reward for achievement and success. At the time of his death last Sunday, he was one of CIA's most senior men—"hardly replaceable," in the words of Deputy Defense Secretary Nitze, who found in Mr. FitzGerald a "unique balance of dash, courage, care and wisdom."

His loss will be felt deeply by all who knew him.

The Government's loss can be fully appreciated only by those who knew.

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